



LIFE GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT • GROW • SHARE • PRACTICE

April 24, 27 2025

Deny: Mark 8:34

Connect (10-15 mins)

1. Share highs and lows of your past week. How did you experience the presence of God in an unexpected way last week?

Grow (10-15 mins)

2. A few weeks ago we talked about what it means to be devoted to God through abiding in His word. What was something from His word that either encouraged you or challenged you in the past few days?

Share (15-30 mins)

3. Read Mark 8:27-34. Have someone recap the sermon in 1-2 minutes. What was most meaningful or significant from last week's sermon?
4. Paul, Timothy, James, Peter, Jude, and even Mary, the mother of Jesus, referred to themselves as a bond-servant, or slave, to Christ. Reflect on how the sermon further explained this idea of willingly chaining yourself to your Master. How does this reframe your devotion to Christ in big and small ways?
5. Some of the biggest ways we struggle with allowing God full Lordship of our lives is by continuing to put our will and our desires above His. There are 3 ways we may struggle with denying "self": self promotion, self preservation, and self protection. Which of these 3 are you most likely to struggle with and in what ways?

Practice: Embracing the Gospel Overtime (30-45 mins)

As you consider what it means to deny yourself, there are big ways and a million small ways we can practice self-denial and surrender in our lives.

- Take time to consider examples of big ways you have or currently are denying your will for God's will? (Example: when following the Lord cost you a career path, death of dream, risk, stepping into the unknown, or obeying out of your comfort zone). Spend a few minutes in group sharing these stories of surrender.
- Now looking at your daily life, what are the ways you are currently practicing or can grow in daily denial of self or surrender? Spend a few minutes in group sharing these daily practices of self-denial.



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Take it Deeper . . .

- As you consider what makes “denying ourselves” so difficult, it might be helpful to evaluate below the surface a bit and what it is that truly keeps us on the throne of our lives rather than surrender to the Lord.

In His book, *Counterfeit Gods*, Tim Keller says, “A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living.”

Reflect on the answer to the questions:

“My life only has meaning if . . .”

“I only have value if . . .”

“My life would be better if . . .”

“If _____ did not happen or was taken from me I would question it all”

While these are not exhaustive questions, they might reveal ways we are still living for self rather than denying self. Over the next week or so, take time to consider which of the areas you are more prone to live for rather than the Lord?

Power: success, winning, influence

Approval: affirmation, love, relationships

Comfort: privacy, lack of stress, freedom

Control: self-discipline, certainty, standards

We will continue to look at these areas next week as well as we consider what it means to “take up our cross” (Mark 8:34)